GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:468
ANSWERED ON:14.08.2007
OBSCENE PROGRAMMES ON TELEVISION
Jha Shri Raghunath

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether private TV channels and Doordarshan telecast obscene serials/programmes etc. without any check;

(b) if so, whether there is any proposal to make it mandatory for TV serials/programmes etc. to obtain Censor Board clearance before telecast; and

(c) if not, the manner in which the Government ensure that obscene programmes/serials etc. are not broadcast on television by private TV channels, Doordarshan etc.?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION & BROADCASTING AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI)

(a) No, Sir.

(b) Question does not arise.

(c) All programmes and advertisements telecast on TV channels transmitted/ retransmitted through the cable TV network, are required to adhere to the Programme and Advertising codes prescribed under the Cable TV Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995 and rules framed thereunder. Action for violations of the Codes can be taken by any authorised officer i.e. DM, SDM or Commissioner of Police or any other officer notified in the official gazette by the Central Govt. or State Govt. The Central Govt. has also constituted an Inter-ministerial Committee (IMC) under Section 20 of the Act to look into the violation of Programme and Advertising Codes prescribed under the Act and Rules framed thereunder. The Committee either suo-motu or on receipt of complaint, examines cases of violation of the Codes. Show cause notices are issued in the first instances to TV channels for telecasting objectionable programmes/ advertisements in violation of Codes. Further action is taken as per rules.